

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2013-2018
PY 40 FUNDING—ANNUAL ACTION PLAN -
CDBG, ESG, HOME and HOPWA
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2014
6:00 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Co-chair Martinez; Co-chair Banta; Council members: McBride-Lee, Lyons, *DeJesus
Council President McCarthy

*arrived 6:45pm

CITY STAFF: Tyler Fairbairn; Acting Deputy Director
Alanna Kabel; Assistant CAO
Jennifer Rodriguez; ESG/HOPWA Program Manager

CITY ATTORNEY: Mark Anastasi

Co-chair Banta called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

**59-13 CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2013-2018 PY 40 FUNDING—ANNUAL ACTION PLAN -
CDBG, ESG, HOME and HOPWA**

Attorney Anastasi stated that they shouldn't risk compromising the process for someone who may have a conflict voting for the CDBG programs. He therefore stated that Council member Martinez shouldn't participate in the discussion or vote for CDBG programs.

Co-chair Martinez stated that she wasn't comfortable with the process as advised by City Attorney Anastasi. She added that she was more uncomfortable with the conservative approach that was indicated, but that she would accept the advice from Attorney Anastasi and Alanna Kabel.

Attorney Anastasi explained that they retained the counsel of Attorney Steve Mednick who is familiar with the process because he worked on the city charter. He further explained that Attorney Mednick is helping the city modernize and improve disclosure

compliance. And going forward, they are looking to err on the side of caution and they are doing everything they can do to ensure full compliance.

Council President McCarthy distributed the memo from Attorney Steve Mednick that outlined Re: Applicability of the HUD Requirements for: CDBG, HOME, Housing Opportunities and ESG programs.

**** CO-CHAIR MARTINEZ MOVED TO ENTER EXHIBIT-I-5-27-14 APPLICABILITY OF THE HUD REQUIREMENTS FOR: CDBG, HOME, HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES AND ESG PROGRAMS INTO THE RECORD**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** CO-CHAIR MARTINEZ MOVED TO ENTER EXHIBIT-II-5-27-14 COUNCIL VOTING LIST – PER CONFLICT OF INTEREST INTO THE RECORD**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER McBRIDE-LEE SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council President McCarthy stated that there was a lot of confusion with the conflict of interest rule. He said it was found that some of the council members wouldn't be able to vote, so they hired Attorney Steve Mednick to review all the rules related to conflict of interest. They then went through HUD and requested exceptions and it was determined that some council members would be able to vote for certain categories, but CDBG programs couldn't be voted on during this ECDE committee meeting. Attorney Anastasi clarified that when they get to the substance of how they will solve the CDBG voting issue, it should be done after the conflict of interest is discussed.

Council President McCarthy clarified that the wording "conflict" doesn't necessarily mean it's a negative. The issue pertains to all council members that are involved in the community and part of the CDBG process, noting that the Federal government has rules that outline certain votes must be abstained from. He further clarified that it's a federal process and not a city process. However, he relayed that everyone worked hard to maximize the voting as much as possible. He referred to the legal opinion that outlined the ability of what's acceptable as long as the rules aren't broken.

Council member Lyons stated that she has been involved in the CDBG voting process for years and she observed the process and understood that there are federal guidelines. However, she expressed that she was a little disappointed because the

north end district doesn't generally receive CDBG funds, although they always tried to help other districts receive what they needed. She said she hoped in the future that they go back to the guidelines and get the federal government to understand that taking them out of the decision making could be harmful to some districts.

Attorney Anastasi commented that the federal government is sensitive to those concerns, noting that Alanna Kabel and Attorney Mednick both looked at the matter internally and nationally to determine that they are on the cutting edge of what needs to be done.

Ms. Kabel relayed that for the first time ever, HUD has clarification of what a family member means as it pertains to the conflict of interest.

Co-chair Martinez stated when changes were made and proposed, there were fully aware of what was involved. City Attorney Anastasi responded that during the regulatory process, there was a lot of public comment that alerted the government to the issue of conflict of interest.

*The committee started the funding review process for category **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)**:*

Ms. Kabel explained that HUD doesn't allow funding of food pantries unless they are serving a hot meal – *per the programs that were stricken from the listing*. She stated that the logic was to lean toward serving people that are truly homeless.

Ms. Rodriguez briefly reviewed the following categories: Street Outreach; Emergency Shelter; HMIS; Homeless Prevention; Rapid Rehousing and HESG Administration. She explained that the funding for Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention of \$111,558 must be spent. She further reviewed the funding allocations that were available for each category.

Council President McCarthy requested the information related to any staff funding revisions – *a copy of the staff recommendations were distributed to the committee members for their reference*.

1) Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) vote:

Council member Lyons recused from the ESG vote due to conflict of interest. *She stepped out of the meeting at 7:15 pm.*

Upon review of the staff recommendations, the committee agreed to accept the staff funding recommendations - *see below*:

▪ **Street Outreach**

54) ABCD – St. Stephen’s Food Pantry
Program Ineligible for funding– per Tyler Fairbairn

39) Bridgeport Tabernacle – Street Outreach
ECDE Recommendation - \$15,000.00
Citizen Union Recommendation - \$7,375.50

4) CoB: Social Services: Veteran’s Food Pantry
Program Ineligible for funding– per Tyler Fairbairn

5) Frank Habansky – Black Rock Food Pantry
Program Ineligible for funding– per Tyler Fairbairn

45) Healing Tree – Kings Pantry
ECDE Recommendation - \$15,000.00
Citizen Union Recommendation - \$10,000

31) Helping Hands – Street Outreach
ECDE Recommendation - \$15,000.00
Citizen Union Recommendation - \$10,000

48) Precious Promises – Breakfast Cafe
ECDE Recommendation - \$10,000.00
Citizen Union Recommendation - \$10,000

>Total Street Outreach Funds Recommendation-ECDE	\$ 55,000.00
> Total Street Outreach Recommendation- Citizens Union	\$ 37,375.50

▪ **Emergency Shelter**

12) Alpha Community Services – Families in Transition: Utilities
ECDE Recommendation - \$46,557.00
Citizen Union Recommendation - \$31,000

64) Time for Change – Time for a Change
Program Ineligible for funding– per Tyler Fairbairn

- ***HMIS***

84) Connecticut Coalition: Homeless Mgmt Info Systems
ECDE Recommendation - \$10,000.00
Citizen Union Recommendation - \$10,000.00

- ***Homeless Prevention***

3) CoB: Social Services: Emergency Rental Assistance
ECDE Recommendation - \$20,000.00
Citizen Union Recommendation - \$20,000

61) Center for Family Justice – Transition Living (DV)
Program Ineligible for funding– per Tyler Fairbairn

Co-chair Martinez questioned if they could take \$5,000.00 from St. Johns Family Ctr: Homeless Prevention allocation of \$10,000.00 and allocate it to ABCD Rental Assistance.

Jennifer gave details of what the ABCD Rental Assistance program involved; consisting of rental assistance and security deposit. It was stated that the agency allows a dollar figure of \$700.00 plus for rental assistance.

Co-chair Banta recommended that they accept the staff recommendation of \$10,000.00 to St. John's Family Ctr: Homeless Prevention.

- ***Rapid Rehousing***

29) United Way of Coastal Fairfield County – Bridgeport Rapid Rehousing
ECDE Recommendation - \$21,558.00
Citizen Union Recommendation - \$19,715.00

55) ABCD – Energy Assistance
ECDE Recommendation – 30,000.00
Citizen Union Recommendation - \$25,000.00

56) ABCD – Emergency Rental Assistance
ECDE Recommendation - \$30,000.00
Citizen Union Recommendation - \$25,000.00

75) St. Johns Family Center – Homeless Prevention

ECDE Recommendation - \$10,000.00

Citizen Union Recommendation - \$5,545.00

▪ **HESG Admin**

ECDE Recommendation - \$18,090.00

Citizen Union Recommendation - \$15,169.50

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO ACCEPT STAFF
RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED AS CITY COUNCIL
RECOMMENDATIONS RE: Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)**

**** CO-CHAIR MARTINEZ SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION
COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS

***Consent calendar**

*****recused from vote due to conflict of interest***

Council member Lyons returned to the meeting.

2) Housing Opportunities for People With HIV/AIDS (HOPWA vote:

Council member DeJesus recused from the discussion and vote for this category due to a conflict of interest (*reason: related to an employee at CASA*). Council member DeJesus stepped out of the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Jennifer relayed that they received more money this year for this category in the amount of \$27k. She explained that this program assists HIV positive and AIDS persons. They help with housing, case management etc. They are also required to fund agencies outside of the Bridgeport area, such as Stamford, Norwalk; noting that the outside agencies receive a fair number of Bridgeport clients.

Council President McCarthy recalled that in years past, they would have had the inclination to only fund Bridgeport agencies, but they asked for clarification about this and they were told that they really didn't have a choice not to share the resources among other towns. Ms. Kabel mentioned that there was an opinion that Bridgeport wasn't allocating resources fairly, so that's the reason for sharing resources.

Council member Lyons said she didn't agree with the opinion that Bridgeport doesn't share resources with other towns. She recalled that during previous funding allocations, outside agencies never attended the meeting to request assistance.

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42) AIDS Project Greater Danbury (APGD – Residential Program

ECDE Recommendation - \$73,000.00

Citizen Union Recommendation - \$70,915.00

10) Catholic Charities – Rental Assistance

ECDE Recommendation - \$146,013.00

Citizen Union Recommendation - \$145,790.00

21) Chemical Abuse Services Agency – (CASA)

ECDE Recommendation - \$111,215.00

Citizen Union Recommendation - \$101,215.00

8) Inspirica – Inspirica

ECDE Recommendation - \$150,000.00

Citizen Union Recommendation - \$148,075.00

30) Mid Fairfield Aids Project - Independent Living

Funding Request - \$152,928.00

Citizen Union Recommendation - \$122,785.00

15) Recovery Network of Programs

ECDE Recommendation - \$95,000,000.00

Citizen Union Recommendation - \$93,710.00

9) Refocus Outreach Ministry

ECDE Recommendation - \$73,000.00

Citizen Union Recommendation - \$70,460.00

HOPWA Admin

ECDE Recommendation - \$24,093.00

Citizen Union Recommendation - \$23,287.00

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO ACCEPT STAFF
RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED AS CITY COUNCIL
RECOMMENDATIONS RE: Housing Opportunities for People With HIV/AIDS
(HOPWA)**

**** CO-CHAIR MARTINEZ SECONDED**

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**** MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION
COUNCIL MEMBER DeJESUS

***Consent calendar**

*****recused from vote due to conflict of interest***

Council member DeJesus returned to the meeting at 7:45 pm.

3) HOME Program vote:

Tyler Fairbarin explained that this program involved the development and preservation affordable housing units, such as the units at 570 State Street, Bijou Square and the old Elias Howe School that are being turned into affordable housing units. He explained that the city reserves the funds and waits for projects to come forward, noting that there are developers waiting to come in to build. He explained that the committee would be approving the split of 10% of the allocation for administrative fee and the remainder will be allocated to affordable housing. He clarified that the funds are used for new housing down payments or rehabilitated housing.

Council member DeJesus asked how many down payment homes there were last year. Mr. Fairbairn said there were twenty-five (25). And there will be between twenty-six (26) and twenty-seven (27) for this year – *open discussion followed regarding how the HOME Loan Program works.*

Co-chair Martinez questioned the number of houses that were included in the down payment program last year. Mr. Fairbairn said the funds for last year will be used by June 2014. He noted that he would keep the committee updated regarding the application process – *open discussion regarding allocations for rehabilitating houses and the reasons why sufficient funds haven't been allocated in past years.*

HOME Administration (10% of allocation)

ECDE Recommendation - \$88,145.00

Citizen Union Recommendation - \$88,145.00

Affordable Housing Development

ECDE Recommendation - \$793,307.00

Citizen Union Recommendation - \$793,307.00

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ACCEPT STAFF
RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED AS CITY COUNCIL
RECOMMENDATIONS RE: HOME ADMINISTRATION (10% OF
ALLOCATION)**

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**** CO-CHAIR MARTINEZ SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

- Council President explained that the committee couldn't go forward with the vote for CDBG programs funding recommendations because there were too many conflict of interest issues with the committee members that wouldn't be able to vote, thus there wouldn't be a full quorum. He stated that they would adjourn this meeting and reschedule another meeting to vote on the CDBG programs recommendations.

ADJOURNED

**** CO-CHAIR BANTA MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services